

## Active Reading Strategies For Great Readers



When reading to learn, you need to read *actively*. This means you should read slowly and think about what you are reading. You should also read the text twice.

### Before Reading

1. **Preview** the whole text.
2. **Examine the text features**. Look at headings, bolded words, pictures, diagrams, table of contents, etc.
3. **Ask questions**. What do I already know about this topic? What do I need to learn? Jot down a few questions you may have.
4. **Set a purpose** for your reading. What do you need to find out?

### During Reading

Read the entire text all the way through to get familiar with it. Now read it again, and as you read:

1. **Visualize** and create pictures in your head of what you are reading.
2. **Make connections** between the text and yourself, other texts you have read, and the world around you.
3. **Ask questions** while reading: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? (5W&H)
4. **Adjust your reading speed**. Slow down if you don't completely understand the text.
5. **Clarify**. Stop and check your understanding. Look up unfamiliar words. Look for context clues in the sentence before or after. Look at the diagrams, tables or other pictures.
6. **Make notes** on the text. Highlight or underline important words or ideas, and write questions next to information you don't understand.

### After Reading

1. **Think** about what you have read.
2. **Review questions**. Have all of your questions been answered? If not, go back and clarify.
3. **Review and revise your notes**. Summarize important ideas.

